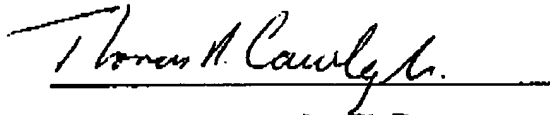


REMARKS

On December 6, 2001, the undersigned was contacted by Examiner Pappu inquiring as to the status of claim 7. Specifically, while claim 7 was not cancelled in preliminary amendments filed February 27, 2001 and June 8, 2001, an indication was made in the remarks of the preliminary amendment of February 27, 2001, that claim 7 had been canceled, thereby creating a discrepancy. The foregoing amendment is believed to rectify any discrepancy with respect to claim 7.

Respectfully submitted,

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